

Idaho and Southwestern Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement

Responsible Agencies: United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (Lead Agency)

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Type of Action: Administrative (X) Legislative ()

Document Status: Draft () Final (X)

Abstract: This Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) with input from 26 cooperating agencies. This document is considering amendments to 26 BLM and 8 Forest Service land use plans to address management of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in Idaho and portions of Montana and Utah. The Proposed LUPA and Final EIS describe and analyzes alternatives for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on approximately 9.2 million acres of BLM-administered lands and 1.9 million acres of National Forest System lands. Major planning issues addressed include energy and minerals, lands and realty (including rights-of-way), wildfire, vegetation management (including invasive species and conifer encroachment), livestock grazing, recreation and travel management, and socioeconomics. To assist the agencies decision makers and the public in focusing on appropriate solutions to the planning issues, the Final EIS considers 7 alternative LUPAs. **Alternative A** is a continuation of current management (No Action Alternative); use of public lands and resources would continue to be managed under the current BLM and Forest Service land use plans, as amended. **Alternative B** is based on management actions from the Sage-Grouse National Technical Team's *A Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures*. **Alternative C** is based on management actions submitted by various groups during public scoping. **Alternative D** was developed by the agencies' interdisciplinary team to address local ecological site variability and address conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse in context with other competing human interests. **Alternative E** is based on the State of Idaho's Governor's Alternative, developed from recommendations by the State of Idaho's Greater Sage-Grouse Task Force. Similar to Alternative C, **Alternative F** was derived from individual and conservation group scoping comments. The **Proposed Plan** is a mix of management actions selected from the range of alternatives in the Draft LUPA/EIS and is based on best science, public scoping comments, public comments on the Draft LUPA/EIS and internal agency discussion. **Alternatives D and E** were the agencies' co-preferred alternatives in the Draft EIS.

Protest Period: Protests must be postmarked or received no later than 30 days after publication of the US Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. Refer to the instructions in the letter preceding this abstract for additional information on how to protest. The close of the protest period will be announced in news releases and on the Idaho website: http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/sage-grouse_rmp_revision.html.

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